

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07215

OSLO PASS SECDEF PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UK, PFOR, SP, NATO

SUBJECT: SPANISH COOPERATION WITH NATO

REF: (A) USNATO 3162; (B) LONDON 7097

1. IN PREPARING FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS WITH NATO ALLIES (REF A) REGARDING CLOSER MILITARY COOPERATION WITH SPAIN, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO ANTICIPATE THAT PRESENT LABOR GOVT. HERE WILL BE LESS DISPOSED THAN ITS CONSERVATIVE PREDECESSOR TO SUPPORT SUCH COOPERATION. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN AND DEFENSE MINISTER SHARE A COMMON DESIRE TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN MEETING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES, BUT ON THIS ISSUE THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE CONSTRAINED BY PRESSURES FROM WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY WHERE HOSTILITY TO FRANCO IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE. (SEE REF B FOR DISCUSSION OF PARTY'S PLANS TO STAGE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO FRANCO'S
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ALLEGED PERSECUTION OF TRADE UNIONS.)

2. WE RAISE THIS NOT TO SUGGEST THAT HMG WILL NECES-
SARILY OPPOSE PLANS TO FOSTER MILITARY COOPERATION BE-
TWEEN NATO AND SPAIN, BUT SIMPLY TO POINT OUT THAT
PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CER-
TAIN DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS THAT DID NOT AFFECT ITS
PREDECESSOR.

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Message Attributes

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